

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 38 so that the claims read in accordance with the following listing of claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A method for coordinating charging information in a communications network having a transport layer network, an application layer network and a billing system, the method comprising:

a user equipment initiating a first connection in said application layer network using a call control protocol and said user equipment initiating a second connection in said transportation layer network;

generating a charging identification in a first network element in one of the application layer network or the transport layer network;

sending said charging identification from said first network element in said one of the application layer network or the transport layer network to a second network element in the other one of the application layer network or the transport layer network;

creating call records for said first connection in said first network element in said one of the application layer network or the transport layer network;

creating call records for said second connection in said second network element in said other one of the application layer network or the transport layer network;

including said charging identification in said call records of said first and second network elements;

sending said call records from said first and second network elements to said billing system; and

coordinating charging information in the communications network using said charging identification included in the call records of said first and second network elements.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said second network element adds said charging identification to charging information which said second network element collects.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said first network element sends an address of the first network element together with said charging

identification to said second network element.

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said second network element adds said address of said first network element to charging information which said second network element collects.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said charging identification is sent from said first network element to said second network element via an interface between the transport and application layer network.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said first network element is a Mobile Station (MS) and the Mobile Station provides the charging identification to both of the application layer network and the transport layer network.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said first network element sends security information together with said charging identification to said second network element.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said second network element verifies said charging identification against said security information.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said second network element sends said charging identification towards an endpoint of a communication.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said second network element sends security information together with said charging identification toward said endpoint of a communication.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said second network element sends an address of said first network element together with charging identification

to said endpoint of a communication.

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said second network element adds an address of said first network element to charging data which said second network element collects.

14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first network element is in said transport layer network.

15. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said charging identification is forwarded to said second network element in said application layer network.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said charging identification is forwarded to a third network element and a fourth network element in said transport layer network.

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein charging information generated by said fourth network element and said third network element in said transport layer network and by the second network element in said application layer network is associated with said charging identification.

18. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said tuple includes a destination IP address and port information of a transaction specific media connection.

19. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the charging identification comprises a tuple or tuple pair.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said charging

identification is sent from said first network element to said second network element via the user equipment, and the user equipment includes the charging identification in a request to setup the connection in the other one of the application layer network or the transport layer network.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Amended) A system for coordinating charging information in a communications network having a transport layer network, an application layer network and a billing system, the system comprising:

a user equipment initiating a first connection in the application layer network using a call control protocol and said user equipment initiating a second connection in the transport layer network;

a first network element and a second network element, adapted to create call records, include a charging identification in their call records, and send said call records to said billing system;

means for coordinating charging information using said charging identification included in the call records of said first and second network elements;

means for establishing a first connection in said application layer network and a second connection in said transport layer network, said first network element being adapted to create the charging identification in one of said application layer network or said transport layer network; and

means for sending said charging identification from said first network element in said one of the application layer network or the transport layer network to the second network element in the other one of the application layer network or the transport layer network.

25. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 24, further comprising a user equipment operable to initiate the first connection in the application layer network and the second connection in the transport layer network.

26. (Previously Added) The system of claim 24, wherein the charging identification comprises a tuple or tuple pair.

27. (Previously Added) The system of claim 24, wherein said charging identification is sent from said first network element to said second network element directly via an interface between the first and second network elements.

28. (Previously Added) The system of claim 26, wherein the first network element comprises a Gateway GPRS Support Node and the second network element comprises a Call State Control Function.

29. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein said charging identification is sent from the first network element to the second network element via the user equipment, and the user equipment includes the charging identification in a request to set up the connection in the other one of the application layer network or the transport layer network.

30. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein said second network element in said application layer network comprises a Call State Control Function.

31. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 29, wherein said connection in said transport layer network comprises a PDP context.

32. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein said user equipment comprises the first network element, and the user equipment provides the charging identification to both of the application layer network and the transport layer network.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A network element for use in coordinating charging information, the network element being configured to:

create call records and a charging identification for use in one of an application layer network or a transport layer network for a communications network having a billing system wherein a first connection is established in the application layer network by a user equipment using a call control protocol and a second connection is established in the transport layer network by said user equipment;

include the charging identification in the call records thereof;

send said call records to said billing system; and

send said charging identification from said network element so as to be used by a further network element in the other one of the application layer network or the transport layer network, to enable charging information for the elements to be coordinated.

39. (Previously Amended) A network element for use in coordinating charging information, the network element being configured for use in one of an application layer network or a transport layer network for the communications network having a billing system wherein a first connection is established in the application layer network by a user equipment using a call control protocol and a second connection is established in the transport layer network by said user equipment, said network element being configured to:

create call records for said second connection in said transport layer network;

send said call record to said billing system; and

receive said charging identification from a further network element operable in the other one of the application layer network or the transport layer network, to enable charging information for the elements to be coordinated.